

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences August 28, 2009 Decision on Appeal and the November 9, 2009 Patent Office Communication. In the appeal decision, the Examiner's decision to reject claims 1, 4-6, 8-18 and 20-22 was affirmed. The Examiner's decision to reject claims 2 and 3 was reversed.

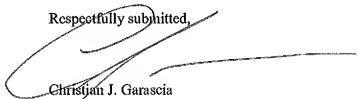
In Applicants' January 23, 2006 Revised Appeal Brief, claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20-22 were pending (claims 7 and 19 having been previously cancelled).

In this Amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 8-18 and 20-22 are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 3 remains dependent from allowable claim 2. No new claims have been added.

Reconsideration of the Application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the Application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 17, 2009